

God Saves Using the Scriptures
International Bible Lesson
Acts 17:1-4, 10-12, 22-28

Sunday, November 22, 2015
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“As was his custom, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures” (Acts 17:2).

When Paul taught unbelievers, Luke said in the Book of Acts that Paul reasoned, explained, proved, and proclaimed the good news about Jesus. The Holy Spirit inspired Paul’s method; therefore, some were persuaded and joined the believers, while others refused to believe. In the synagogue in Thessalonica, Paul reasoned from the Scriptures on three Sabbath days. As was his custom, he taught from the Old Testament prophets and showed how Jesus fulfilled the Scriptures regarding the necessity of His death and resurrection; therefore, some believed and joined Paul and Silas. However, some of the unbelievers became jealous and started a riot in the city, forcing Paul and Silas to go to Berea. In Berea, many in the synagogue received Paul’s teaching “with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said

was true” (Acts 17:11). Luke reported that many Jews, along with Greek men and women believed. People can reason about the Scriptures and the Christian faith because the truth is reasonable and God invites people to reason. On many occasions Jesus gave reasons for His actions and teachings, often saying, “For this reason.” Sometimes Jesus told people why they did not understand His reasoning: “Whoever belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God” (John 8:47). As far as we know, Paul did not quote the Scriptures when he spoke to the Athenians in the Areopagus, but everything he said was reasoned from the Scriptures; therefore, some believed, even a member of the Areopagus; then, Paul could teach them the Scriptures.

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Thinking Further

1. From today's lesson, what is one possible reason some people persecute Christians?

2. What possible good can come from Christians suffering persecution?

3. How does a person's character influence their response to the truth when they hear the truth?

4. Think of the Bereans, what is one benefit from knowing the Scriptures and having access to a Bible?

5. How did Paul's approach to unbelievers in the synagogues differ from his approach to unbelievers in the Areopagus?

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